

Foundations I, Part 1: God and His Word Study Guide

Starting where the Bible starts: The God who created all things, Genesis 1:1–3

Who is this Creator God?

God is a Spirit	John 4:24
God is Infinite	1 Kings 8:27
Eternal	Psalms 90:1–2
Unchangeable	James 1:17
Wisdom	Psalms 104:24
Power	Jeremiah 32:17
Holiness	1 Peter 1:15–16
Justice	Exodus 34:6–7
Goodness	Psalms 103:2–5
Truth	Hebrews 6:17–18

Are there more Gods than one? There is only one God, the living and true God.

Deuteronomy 6:4, John 17:3

The Names of God

(1) **Elohim:** The plural form of EL, meaning “strong one.”

El Shaddai: “God Almighty.” Some think it stresses God’s loving supply and comfort; others His power as the Almighty one standing on a mountain and who corrects and chastens (Gen. 17:1).

El Elyon: “The Most High God.” Stresses God’s strength, sovereignty, and supremacy (Gen. 14:18-19;).

El Olam: “The Everlasting God.” Emphasizes God’s unchangeableness and is connected with His inexhaustibility (Gen. 16:13).

(2) **Yahweh (YHWH):** Shows that this name stresses God as the independent and self-existent God of revelation and redemption (Gen. 4:3; Ex. 6:3).

Yahweh Jireh (Yireh): “The Lord will provide.” Stresses God’s provision for His people (Gen. 22:14).

Yahweh Nissi: “The Lord is my Banner.” Stresses that God is our rallying point and our means of victory; the one who fights for His people (Ex. 17:15).

Yahweh Shalom: “The Lord is Peace.” Points to the Lord as the means of our peace and rest (Jud. 6:24).

Yahweh Sabaoth: “The Lord of Hosts.” A military figure portraying the Lord as the commander of the armies of heaven (1 Sam. 17:45).

Yahweh Maccaddeshcem: “The Lord your Sanctifier.” Portrays the Lord as our means of sanctification or as the one who sets believers apart for His purposes (Ex. 31:13).

Yahweh Ro’i: “The Lord my Shepherd.” Portrays the Lord as the Shepherd who cares for His people as a shepherd cares for the sheep of his pasture (Ps. 23:1).

Yahweh Tsidkenu: “The Lord our Righteousness.” Portrays the Lord as the means of our righteousness (Jer. 23:6).

Yahweh Shammah: “The Lord is there.” Portrays the Lord’s personal presence in the kingdom (Ez 48:35).

Yahweh Elohim Israel: “The Lord, the God of Israel.” Identifies Yahweh as the God of Israel in contrast to the false gods of the nations (Judges 5:3).

(3) **Adonai:** Stresses man’s relationship to God as his master, authority, and provider (Gen. 18:1-2).

(4) Theos: Primary name for God used in the New Testament.

(5) Kurios: Stresses authority and supremacy. It is used mostly as the equivalent of Yahweh of the Old Testament.

(6) Father: As a name of God, it stresses God's loving care, provision, discipline, and the way we are to address God in prayer (Matt. 7:11).

One God or three Gods?

How many persons are there in the Godhead? There are three persons in the Godhead: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory.

Matthew 3:16-17

John 1:1; Acts 5:3-4

Three errors

Modalism

Arianism

Polytheism

The Bible

What rule has God given to direct us how to glorify and enjoy him?

The Word of God, which consists of the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only rule to direct us how to glorify and enjoy him.

Psalm 19:7-11

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Three key qualities of the Bible

1. Inspiration: God made use of men to reveal God's word

2. Infallible: Incapable of teaching any error

3. Inerrant: Contains nothing contrary to fact

The Bible is a unique book

- Written by over 40 men: shepherds, doctors, priests, tentmakers, kings
- It was written over a time period of around 1600 years (~1500BC to ~AD100).
- Parts were written on three different continents (Asia, Europe, & Africa) and in Hebrew and Greek.
- Big Book with 66 smaller books.
- Its influence on our world and on many people's lives has been tremendous. It's the most translated book ever. Portions translated in over 2,000 languages
- A living document with power to change the reader. The Author is alive and meets us as we read.

The Bible is magnificent book.